



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS VIDEOGRAPHER WHOSE MOTHER WAS MURDERED TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS FOR MARYLAND'S NATIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK KICKOFF

Photojournalist focuses on helping others

TOWSON, MD (April 5, 2005)---A veteran news videographer whose images of the devastating effects of crime have won him Emmy awards will deliver the keynote address during the State's Open House and Awards Ceremony kicking off the 25th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. But Peter O'Neal won't just be talking about looking at crime and tragedy through a viewfinder. He'll be talking about looking at it through tear-filled eyes. In the mid-90s, Mr. O'Neal's mother was killed in her Baltimore home, and on that terrible night, he crossed the line from witnessing crime scenes to witnessing the devastating effects of losing a loved one to crime.

A moving speaker, Mr. O'Neal weaves his awards, his nightly news job on the streets of Baltimore, his work on the TV series *Homicide*, *Life on the Street*, and his mother's horrifying death into a tale of how one victim has overcome his grief by dedicating his life to helping others. One of those efforts, Mr. O'Neal's Christmas toy drive, begun just after his mom's killing, now puts toys into the hands of thousands of needy kids from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore.

WHAT: Victims' Rights Open House and Award Ceremony

WHERE: Public Safety Education & Training Center, 6852 Fourth St. in Sykesville

WHEN: Tuesday, April 12th at 1 p.m.

**NATIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK 2005:
"JUSTICE ISN'T SERVED UNTIL CRIME VICTIMS ARE."**